

IN RECOGNITION OF ANN
COUSINEAU

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, Representative GEORGE MILLER, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, and I rise today in honor of Ann Cousineau, director of Solano County Library for the last 15 years. As her colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of her life, we ask all of our colleagues to join us in saluting this outstanding public servant and supporter of free and public libraries.

Transforming a library system that was teetering on the brink of a financial abyss into one of the premier libraries in the state, Ann did this not by "shushing" exuberant voices and library users, but by embracing the need to bring libraries into the 21st Century. Her legacy is a system of eight libraries that are central to lifelong learning in the communities that they serve, and in changing lives every day.

Ann Cousineau's hard work and vision benefit our next generation as well as generations to come. Three new libraries were built during her tenure. These new library buildings, along with renovations of the five existing buildings, are part of a 20-year facilities master plan to build and renovate libraries in the cities served by Solano County Library.

In 1999, Ann Cousineau served as co-chair of the statewide initiative for the successful passage of Proposition 14, a \$350 million statewide library construction bond act. The Fairfield Cordelia Library, which opened in 2006, is one of 45 libraries throughout California that were built with the help of these funds. The next year the California Library Association named her Member of the Year for her achievements in promoting state legislation benefitting libraries.

During her time as director, the Library has developed a telephone assistance center and an award-winning Web site with 24/7 reference services. Streamlined operations, self service functions and a staff trained to handle everything from story-time to computer class are just a few examples of a "new way of doing business" pioneered by Solano County Library and adopted by other libraries throughout California.

Madam Speaker, we are truly honored to pay tribute to our friend and dedicated public servant. We ask all of our colleagues to join with us in wishing Ann continued success and happiness in all of her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING GILBERT
ALVAREZ

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gilbert Alvarez on the occasion of his retirement from the Hansen Dam Aquatic Center. Mr. Alvarez is being honored by his many colleagues, family and friends for his dedicated career and longtime commitment to the City of Los Angeles.

A resident of Southern California, Gilbert began his career with the City of Los Angeles, at the Department of Recreation and Parks, in the intermittent part-time position of Recreation Assistant. During his eleven years as a part-time employee, he held a myriad of jobs in West Wilshire, El Sereno, Yosemite Pools, served as a supply manager for the Metro Region, and held the positions of Pool Lifeguard and Pool Manager.

On May 23, 1999 he was selected as the first Aquatic Facility Manager in the City and the first supervisor of the newly rebuilt Hansen Dam Aquatic Center.

During Gilbert's tenure as the Manager of the Hansen Dam Aquatic Center, his diligence and oversight of the pool helped detect a leak that would have cost taxpayers millions of dollars had it gone unnoticed.

Furthermore, Mr. Alvarez created the annual Hansen Dam Triathlon, which introduced an activity that has greatly benefitted the community. Among his other achievements during the past thirty-seven years of service to the City of Los Angeles, Gilbert revived the Open Water Junior Lifeguard Program at Hansen Dam and Cabrillo Beach.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Gilbert Alvarez a happy and productive retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE ATHLETIC
ACHIEVEMENTS OF KIM MY AND
MY LINH LI AT ST. FRANCIS
DESALES HIGH SCHOOL

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of two students at St. Francis DeSales High School in Columbus, Ohio. Kim My Li and My Linh Li, who not only are teammates, but sisters, recently won the Ohio Division II State Championship in tennis doubles.

The Li sisters won their championship tennis match in remarkable fashion, playing to a marathon score of 6-2 6-7(7-9), 6-2. This year's tournament was My Linh's first and Kim My's third, and through hours of practice, and true demonstration of teamwork, these sisters were able to end their season on a high note.

This accomplishment attests not only to the sisters' commendable display of commitment, but also to the outstanding athletic department at DeSales High School. I'm proud to congratulate Kim My and My Linh and join with them in celebrating their historic State Championship title!

A TRIBUTE TO MS. JAVANNI
AGARD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Javanni Agard, born July 15, 1991 to Valencia Thorne and Darrelle Agard.

Javanni is a graduate of the Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice. This small set-

ting has worked to her advantage making it easy to obtain exceptional grades and learn how to be professional in the business world. During her sophomore year of high school, she was given the opportunity to participate in an internship at The Brooklyn District Attorney's Office. She worked as an intern for paralegals, assisting them with paperwork, filing, copying and other forms of clerical work. However, this internship opened her eyes to things she had only seen on television. She was able to visit the Supreme Court and view cases, learning what it was like to be a lawyer in the courtroom.

During her junior year of high school, she was assigned to help out in the Red Hook Senior Home and at an organization called Furnish a Future. Taking part in these organizations helped her to understand what it meant to help someone else, that it's not always about self, but helping those in need.

Javanni is a member of Berean Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, where Rev. Dr. Arlee Griffin, Jr. is her Pastor. She participated in the Ministry of Sacred Dance and the Girl Scouts.

Javanni currently attends John Jay College of Criminal Justice as a first year student. During her college experience, she hopes to participate in internships and possibly take part in study abroad. After her success at John Jay, she will attend Law School.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Javanni Agard.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAM HAMRA
OF SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sam and June Hamra of Springfield, Missouri. An attorney by professional training, Sam Hamra has been a community and political activist for many years. Sam and June are also philanthropists and civic and community leaders in many worthy causes.

In late October, Sam and June were honored by Wendy's International with the R. David Thomas Founder's Award. The Founder's Award is Wendy's International's highest honor and is presented annually to its outstanding franchisee who best embodies the common-sense business values of Wendy's founder Dave Thomas.

In being honored with Wendy's top franchisee recognition, Hamra and his restaurants were cited for their excellent operations, strong marketing plans, and the value placed on employee development. Another aspect of the award is the support the Hamras give to local civic and charitable activities. In recent years, Hamra has directed the modernization of all 28 restaurants in their Wendy's of Missouri group. Trademarks of Hamra's restaurants are strong management, low employee turnover and increased productivity and store sales. These are not just the restaurant's characteristics, but also reflect the owner's outlook and business acumen.

Sam opened his first Wendy's restaurant on March 15, 1976, in Springfield, Missouri, near the intersection of Sunshine & Campbell. The 206th Wendy's restaurant in the United States,